GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2694
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
PM OVERSEAS VISITS
HANNAN MOLLAH;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister visited certain foreign countries during the last one year till December, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (c) Sir a statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in answer to parts (a) - (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred QuestionNo.2694 for answer on 14.3.2001 regarding `PM Overseas Visits`

Sl No.	Name of Country Visited	Date(s) of Visit	Purpose/Outcome of the Visit
1.	Mauritius	March 10-13. 2000	Prime Minister paid a bilateral visit to Mauritius. The Prime Minister of India and his Mauritian counterpart jointly inaugurated the new complex of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture. The two Prime Ministers also jointly laid the foundation stone for a new educational and cultural institution to be called the Rabindranath Tagore Centre. A decision was taken by the Government of Mauritius to approve the proposal of Indian Oil Corporation to commence operations in Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius has allocated free of cost 2.4 hectares of land for building the Chancery of the High Commission of India in Port Louis. In the presence of the two Prime Ministers,the following four Agreements were signed: (i) Trade Agreement; (ii) Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Information Technology; (iii) Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Ocean Development and (iv) Memorandum of Understanding extending Line of Credit. Additional flights by Air Mauritius - two weekly flights to Chennai and one to New Delhi - have been approved after bilateral civil aviation talks. These flights are expected to further intensify tourism and commercial activities between India and Mauritius

			It was a very successful visit and India hopes that the tradition of high-level exchanges with Mauritius would continue.
2.	Italy	June 25-27, 2000	PM exchanged views with the President and Prime Minister of Italy on expanding bilateral cooperation on regional and international issues of mutual interest. He also addressed a meeting of the Italian and Indian industrialists and businessmen and asked them to exploit new opportunities for investment trade and technological cooperation between India and Italy. As a result relationship between the two countries has considerably strengthened. An Agreement on cooperation in Tourism was signed on June 26, 2000. PM also met the Pope and discussed matters of mutual interest with him.
3.	Portugal	June 27-28, 2000	To participate in the first everIndia-EU Summit. A major achievement of the Summit was the mutual agreement between India and the EU to forge a new strategic partnership in the 21st Century. The India-EU Joint Declaration adopted at the Summit, provides broad guidelines for upgrading the relationship to a qualitatively higher level. An `Agenda for Action` encompassing joint initiatives in the political, eco. and commercial fields was also agreed upon. The two sides also agreed to cooperate to prevent and combat terrorism and to meet challenges arising from it in the regional and international context. It was agreed that India and the EU would strive for a Comprehensive Convention an International Terrorism. The visit also enabled us to convey our concerns regarding trade related protectionist measures as well as to share views on WTO-related matters. Both sides agreed to work towards progressive liberalisation of trade, opposing protectionist tendencies and creating an open, equitable and no-discriminatory rule-based multilateral treading system. An agreement betB een India and EU on Financing of Civil Aviation Sector was signed.
		June 28-29, 2001	PM`s Bilateral visit commenced at the conclusion of the India-EU Summit and was the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to Portugal. PM discussed bilateral issues with his Portuguese counterpart and the President of Portugal. Mutual understanding and appreciation of positions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues characterised these discussions. In recognition of our growing international profile, at a joint press conference on June 98, 2000, Prime Minister Guterres stated that Portugal has sympathy for India`s candidature for a permanent seat in the UNSC. There was equallv strong support for India`s initiative for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.During the visit, an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was signed. Both sides ageed to set Up a Joint Workino Group on Information Technology.
4.	USA	September 6-8,2000	To attend Millennium Summit of the United Nations. During the visit PM signed the `International Convention for Suppression of Terrorist Financing` on behalf of India Prime Minister Vajpayee and President Clinton had

wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest including cooperation in trade and economic arena, energy and environment, science and technology, health, counter-terrorism including narcotics trafficking, international security and cooperation in UN peacekeeping.

The two leaders issued a Joint Statement after their discussions, reaffirming the vision outlined during

President Clinton`s visit to India in March 2000. An MoU for Bilateral Energy Consultations and Protocol of Intent on Human Resource Development in the Indian power sector was also signed by Ministry of Power and US Department of Energy. The Visit has resulted in better understanding of each other`s perspectives on issues of mutual concern.